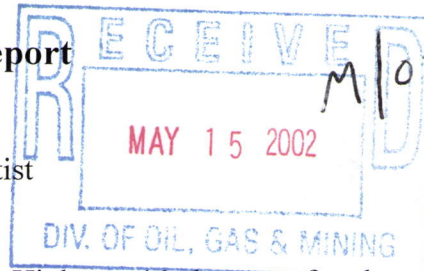


Division comment: This inspection report was received by electronic mail on May 15, 2002, from Denice Swanke of the BLM in Moab.

### Inspection Report

**Case File:** Small Fry Mine Closure  
**Inspector:** Denice Swanke, Physical Scientist  
**Date of Report:** 25 April 2002



Access to this site is south of Moab on Highway 191 to Highway 46, then east for about 6 miles to the Big Indian Valley road. Turn south on this road for about 5 miles, turn west at the road across from the Big Indian mine site, follow the road approximately 1-1 ½ miles to the site.

Donna Turnipseed, MFO Archaeologist, and I completed an inspection of the site on 25 April 2002. I was unable to get satellite coverage for GPS mapping, although the area is indicated on the attached topo maps. Photographs which were taken that day are also attached. Donna gave a verbal clearance for the road to be reclaimed, there were no sites found when we walked the road. She will be out of the office until at least 06 May, and will complete a written clearance when she returns.

According to the case file, this site was patented December 23, 1982 to Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation. Current ownership is by MolyCorp/Unocal, and they initiated contact with this office earlier this month regarding reclamation requirements. I spoke with Opie Abeyeta at the USO on 26 April about this case, requesting pre-patent information. According to her it was State Office policy in the early 1980's that once a claim went to patent, the records were destroyed. This practice continued until 1993. There is no record of this site in the Field or State Offices. Susan Alvillar from Unocal mailed several items from their files here for our documentation including a copy of the patent, maps and correspondence.

While en route to the site I observed equipment operating on an adjacent road, but did not investigate. As I was hiking the mine site, the equipment operator, David, drove over and introduced himself as an employee of Harding ESE, a contractor doing the reclamation for Unocal. He outlined their plans for the site and indicated that his supervisor, Gary Haptonstall, was also working in the area, and that they had attempted to stop in at the MFO the afternoon before, but had been given bad directions and were unable to locate the facility.

As I was working my way out the access road and photo-documenting its condition, I met Gary. We discussed their plans for the site, including the road and drainage issues. He stated that they had just been working on closing a mine shaft where I saw them earlier. He mentioned a shack next to the shaft that was situated just off the patented land and on BLM, disposal of which he would be discussing with Dick Brammer, the Unocal project manager in Grand Junction.

I am confident through my discussion with these men that they are capable of completing this mine closure in a way that the BLM will be satisfied with. They intend to fill and seal any portals and openings throughout the area, recontour the site, seed and mulch. They have been contracting with Unocal for the past four years doing similar work throughout Colorado.

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I left a message for Dick Brammer once I returned to the office. I also spoke with Bill Stringer about the possibility of closing an east-west access road to the site in addition to the stem road into the mine which is already slated for closure. He felt this was reasonable, but will need to discuss it with Ed Sherick of San Juan County, since the county claims these as existing county roads. Ed was not in the office at the time we phoned.





Photos 1-3: Cabin site at NW edge of claim. Will be removed from public lands during reclamation.



Photo 4: Overview of site from bench to S-SE.



Photo 5: Spur road to cabin.



Photo 6: View to W of ripped access road.



Photos 7-8: View of ripped surface at shaft location. 2 small piles of overburden remain. Other piles in distance.